



Thus, this restriction will not reduce the workload of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office or simplify prosecution of the application. As set forth in M.P.E.P. Section 803, there are two criteria for a proper restriction requirement between patentably distinct inventions: (1) the inventions must be independent or distinct as claimed; and (2) there must be a **serious burden** on the Examiner if restriction is not required. This portion of the M.P.E.P. requires that if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner **must** examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the aforementioned restriction requirement is respectfully requested. The provisional restriction is hereby made without prejudice to Applicants' right to file a divisional application or applications should the restriction requirement become final.

Respectfully submitted,

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